

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:  
Cancel claims 16-20 and 23.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for allocating a resource in a digital network, the method comprising:

using a network planning tool prior to a time of operation of the digital network to define a recommended route change in use of the resource;

determining when a route change resource is needed at [[the]] a time of operation of the digital network; and

allocating the recommended route resource at the time of operation of the digital network according to the definition of the recommended change in use of the resource.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein a plurality of recommended routes is defined.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising defining a priority order of the plurality of recommended routes; and allocating the plurality of recommended routes at least in part according to the priority order.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a definition of the recommended route includes the resource includes a service instance having one or more of the

following: source node, destination node, service type, service granularity, maximum delay, protection type.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 5, wherein a definition of the recommended route ~~the resource~~ includes routing information.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the routing information includes equipment needs.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the routing information indicates whether a route uses a switching matrix.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending the definition of a recommended route resource to a network management system.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending the definition of a recommended route resource to an Element Management System.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending the definition of a recommended route resource to a Craft Terminal.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending the definition of a recommended route resource to a control plane.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the recommended route resource includes a description of a characteristic of an optical network.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising

receiving information generated at a time of deployment of the digital network;  
and

using the received information to modify the definition of a recommended route  
resource.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising  
receiving information generated at a time of operation of the digital network; and  
using the received information to modify the definition of a recommended route  
resource.

16 - 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for allocating a resource in a digital  
network, the apparatus comprising:

a processor;  
a machine computer-readable storage medium including instructions executable  
by the processor comprising:

one or more instructions for using a network planning tool prior to a time of  
operation of the digital network to define a recommended route change in use of the resource;

one or more instructions for determining when a route change resource is needed  
at [[the]] a time of operation of the digital network; and

one or more instructions for allocating the recommended route resource at the  
time of operation of the digital network ~~according to the definition of the recommended change  
in use of the resource~~.

22. (Currently Amended) A machine computer-readable storage medium  
including instructions executable by [[the]] a processor, for allocating a resource in a digital  
network, the computer-readable storage medium comprising:

one or more instructions for using a network planning tool prior to a time of  
operation of the digital network to define a recommended route change in use of the resource;

one or more instructions for determining when a route change resource is needed at [[the]] a time of operation of the digital network; and

one or more instructions for allocating the recommended route resource at the time of operation of the digital network ~~according to the definition of the recommended change in use of the resource~~.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for allocating a resource in a digital network, the apparatus comprising:

means for using a network planning tool prior to a time of operation of the digital network to define a recommended route change in use of the resource;

means for determining when a route change resource is needed at [[the]] a time of operation of the digital network; and

means for allocating the recommended route resource at the time of operation of the digital network ~~according to the definition of the recommended change in use of the resource~~.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[25]] 24, wherein a plurality of recommended routes is defined.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising  
means for defining a priority order of the plurality of recommended routes; and  
means for allocating the plurality of recommended routes at least in part according to the priority order.